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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/565)*]

56/206. Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling relevant resolutions on human settlements, in particular its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 34/115 of 14 December 1979,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[2]

Aware of rapid urbanization trends in developing countries and related challenges in shelter provision, eradicating poverty and sustainable human settlements development,

Convinced of the need for urgent action to advance the quality of life of all people in cities and other human settlements,

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly in developing countries, with a view to improving human settlements,

Recalling the commitments of Governments to, inter alia, promoting broad access to appropriate housing financing, increasing the supply of affordable housing and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development that will attract investment,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

Recalling also its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which it, inter alia, designated the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as a focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and called for a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization,

Recalling further its resolutions 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 55/195 of 20 December 2000, in which it requested the Secretary-General to consider further strengthening the Centre through the provision of requisite support and stable, adequate and predictable financial resources, including additional regular budget and human resources,

Recalling agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the Economic and Social Council adopted at the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Council,[1] and taking note of the conclusions of the Council at its substantive session of 2001 regarding improving inter-agency coordination in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Bearing in mind the responsibilities of the Centre, as set out in paragraph 228 of the Habitat Agenda, and the establishment of the Habitat task manager system,

Recalling the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2] in particular paragraph 67 thereof, in which the Secretary-General was invited to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Encouraged by the resumption by several Member States of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in response to the work undertaken by the management of the Centre to revitalize the Centre and give it a new impetus to advance the Habitat Agenda,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),[3] including their financial implications,

I

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Decides to transform the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, with effect from 1 January 2002, into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-Habitat, which will have the elements described below:

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3/Rev.1), chap. V, para. 6.

[2] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[3] A/56/618.

A

Governing body

Status, composition, objectives, functions and responsibilities

1. *Decides* to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-Habitat, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly;

2. *Also decides* that the Governing Council shall propose its rules of procedure on the basis of the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements, bearing in mind the provisions of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly;[6]

3. *Further decides* that the practices regarding the participation of Habitat Agenda partners shall be according to the relevant rules of the Economic and Social Council with regard to participation and accreditation, that the established practices of the Commission on Human Settlements shall be utilized and that such practices shall in no way create a precedent for other governing bodies of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall be composed of fifty-eight members, to be elected by the Economic and Social Council for four-year terms on the following basis:[7]

(*a*) Sixteen seats for African States;

(*b*) Thirteen seats for Asian and Pacific States;

(*c*) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(*d*) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(*e*) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States;

5. *Confirms* that the Governing Council shall have the objectives, functions and responsibilities set out in resolution 32/162 and in paragraph 222 of the Habitat Agenda;

6. *Decides* that the Governing Council shall be the intergovernmental decision-making body for the Programme;

7. *Also decides* that the Governing Council shall meet biennially and report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Further decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat shall serve as the Governing Council's intersessional subsidiary body;

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[6] The first meeting of the Governing Council shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Commission on Human Settlements.

[7] Existing members of the Commission on Human Settlements shall continue as members of the Governing Council until the expiration of their original terms of office.

B

Secretariat of the Programme

1. *Decides* to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) into the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and confirms that the secretariat of the Programme, under the direction of the Executive Director, shall be entrusted with the responsibilities set out in paragraph 228 of the Habitat Agenda and in resolution 32/162. The UN-Habitat secretariat shall service the Governing Council and serve as the focal point for human settlements and for the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system;

2. *Also decides*, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, that the UN-Habitat secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director at the level of Under-Secretary-General, to be elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years upon nomination by the Secretary-General after consultation with Member States;[5]

3. *Affirms* that the Urban Forum is a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council does not meet, and that the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities is an advisory body to the Executive Director;

4. *Decides* that the resources for managing the Programme shall comprise the posts and budgetary resources of the Centre, without prejudice to additional regular budget and extrabudgetary resources that may become available;

II

Financing human settlements

1. *Confirms* that the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) shall be responsible for the management of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, with due regard to the terms of reference of the Foundation as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX);

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in resolution 3327 (XXIX), of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries;

3. *Invites* all Governments to increase their contributions to the Foundation to enhance the capacity of the Programme to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;[4]

4. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the Programme to continue her fund-raising appeals and initiatives for a substantial increase of Foundation resources;

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[5] The current Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) shall continue as the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) until the expiration of her original term of office.

5. *Calls* for the active participation and collaboration of organizations and bodies within and outside the United Nations system, including the World Bank and regional development banks, in the activities of the Programme and its Foundation, in particular with regard to the provision of seed capital and the financing of operational human settlements projects and programmes, as well as developing appropriate and innovative approaches for financing its projects and programmes;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support the Programme through the provision of adequate regular budget resources;

III

Policy coordination

1. *Reaffirms* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, together with the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), constitute the three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Emphasizes* the role and importance of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements, in the activities and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular in the context of common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as the poverty reduction strategy papers process led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

3. *Welcomes* the fact that the Programme, as the United Nations focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, will participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination[9] at all levels of its machinery;

4. *Decides* that the Programme should strengthen its collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant bodies in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as it relates to sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001

[9] Formerly known as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (see Economic and Social Council decision 2001/321 of 24 October 2001).